UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK **Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences** **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD** **at 14.00, Wednesday 15 November 2023, Radcliffe 2**		
Present	Professor Nick Vaughan-Williams	Vice-Provost and Chair of the Faculty of Social Sciences
	Professor Matthew Clayton	Head of Department, Politics & International Studies
	Professor Gill Cooke	Director of Education, WMG (Board of the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine representative)
	Professor Fiona Copland	Head of School, School of Education, Learning and Communication Sciences (SELCS)
	Dr Susie Cowley-Haselden	Director of Academic Literacies & Skills, Warwick Foundation Studies
	Professor Caroline Elliott	Professor, Department of Economics & Deputy Chair of Faculty of Social Sciences (Education)
	Professor Richard Hastings	Director, Centre for Educational Development Appraisal and Research
	Caleb Heather	Undergraduate student representative
	Professor Nina-Anne Lawrence	Director, Warwick Foundation Studies
	Professor Ulf Liebe	Head of Department, Sociology
	Professor Ben Lockwood	Head of Department, Department of Economics
	Professor Guy Longworth	Head of Department, Philosophy
	Professor Celia Lury	Director, Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies
	Professor Goldie Osuri	Professor, Department of Sociology
	Dr Claudia Rei	Deputy Head of Department (Teaching), Department of Economics
	Fiona Wallace	Director of Education, Warwick Foundation Studies
	Professor Chris Warhurst	Director, Institute for Employment Research
Attending	Gabriella Bersanetti	Senior Policy Advisor, Education (Secretary)
	Christine Bradford	Academic Support Librarian
	Rose Clark	Executive Officer, Faculty of Social Sciences
	Jackie Clarke	Director of Faculty Administration, Social Sciences
	Laura King	Training Coordinator, ESRC DTP (Assistant Secretary)
	Professor Celine Tan	Professor, School of Law, FSS EDI Forum Chair
	Aiden Thompson	Research Strategy and Development Manager

Ref	Item
001	**Apologies for absence** Apologies for absence were received from: Ilinca Balasa, Jon Coaffee, Thomas Crowther, Jonathan Garton, Marta Guerriero, Andrew Lockett, Noortje Marres, Nikki Muckle, Ross Ritchie, Chris Rogers, Jacky Swan, Christopher Warhurst, Andrew Williams.
002	**Declarations of Interest** No new declarations were made.

003	**Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion** The Chair invited members to consider items through the EDI lens, and reflect how as members the Board could support and champion its principles.
004	**Membership and Terms of Reference 2023-24** The Chair welcomed the following new members: Dr Claudia Rei (Economics), Dr Thomas Crowther (Philosophy), Professor Ulf Liebe (Sociology), Professor Goldie Osuri (Sociology), Fiona Wallace (WFS), Professor Gill Cooke (SEM Rep), Dr Mark Pulsford (Senior Tutor), Aiden Thompson (Research Development Officer), UG Student reps: Caleb Heather, Ilinca Balasa. The Chair informed Board members that the membership and terms of reference of the Faculty Education Committee had been approved by Chair's Action. (018-BFSS151123).
005	**Minutes of last meeting held on 24 May 2023** The minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2023 (005-BFSS151123 Public) were **approved**.
006	**Matters arising from last meeting held on 24 May 2023** • **Item 054 (Proposal to establish a new Research Centre)** The Secretary reported that feedback from the Faculty relating to the establishment of research centres WCSDS and DEAR had been progressed and both were approved by Senate in July 2023.
	Chair's Update
007	**Chair's Business and Actions** a) **Social Sciences Grand Challenge (SSGC) Update** The Chair provided an update on the SSGC: • Council had agreed the July business plan, but on completion of RIBA stage 1 it was reported that costs had increased. • An increased budget had been approved in principle at Finance and General Purposes Committee (FGPC) and would need to go back to November Council for approval. If approved, the project would then move to RIBA stage 2. • There would be two timelines, one for new buildings and a second timeframe for the refurbishment of the existing WBS building and Social Sciences block. Board would be informed of progress in Term 2. • Consultation with key stakeholders would include SSLCs, focus groups and individual departments. Student experience would be at the heart of the process. b) **Honorary Degrees** Board members were asked to consider nominating individuals for Honorary degrees with a focus on supporting a strategic initiative. Nominations required an established link with the University and an individual with a significant international/national/regional profile. Members were asked to contact the Chair to discuss nomination ideas. c) **Deputy Chair, Research** The Chair thanked Jon Coaffee who was standing down as Deputy Chair of Research. The Chair thanked Jon for creating the Impact Forum, leading on the ESRC IAA and ESRC DTP renewals and for work on the research themes of the Grand Challenge. We wish Jon well and look forward to working with him in his new capacity as DPVC(R).
	Main Items
008	**ITLR Outcomes** The Board welcomed Vicky Marsh, Quality Review and Enhancement Manager, Education Policy and Quality who presented paper 008-BFSS151123 (Protected). The key points were as follows:

	• The paper circulated was an adapted version of the ITLR University Education Committee paper, providing a quality assurance piece to the Board. • Standards were assured across the curriculum. 145 strengths across 14 departments, with 14 required actions limited to 9 of the reports. • EPQ and other central teams would provide support for action plans. Progress against action plans would be reported to AQSC in September 2024. Required actions included student growth and impact on student experience. Also, administrative support structures for joint degree programmes and support for degree apprenticeships. • Strengths noted were responsiveness to student voice, enhancement of employability skills and support of staff development. • Next steps were outlined as reviewing required actions and identifying support. Outputs would feed into the Education Strategy refresh. • EPQ would be reviewing the whole approach to quality assurance and update practices. Plans were to utilise existing data sets and statutory requirements. • There would be a focus on the evaluation of processes (interviewing volunteers and running focus groups) and outputs would feed into the quality framework. • 2nd phase of evaluation would focus on impact. Content of outputs would be more accessible – infographics, summaries, stand-alone focus pieces. The Board were informed that panel reports and department responses would be published online in the new year. The Chair provided thanks and noted the effort and work required for the process.
009	**Student Recruitment Strategy Refresh** The Board welcomed Jon Inegbedion, Associate Director of Student Recruitment, Chief Communication Officers Group. The presentation slides were circulated to members after the meeting. • The Board were provided with an overview of the purpose and aims of the strategy and of the underpinning theme of supporting diversity and building international diversity. • The Board were also provided an overview of the international market prioritisation, split into Tier 1,2 and 3. • Country specific recruitment targets would be introduced from 2025/26 onwards. • Agent targets had been reviewed and additional training and support systems would be developed, with annual enrolment targets and agent performance reviews. • Further resource would be provided for recruiting international students already in the UK and there would be enhanced support for better transition rates between study levels. • PGR recruitment would be a focus, with a recruitment task group to develop a strategy. A commissioned piece of work would also develop understanding around the applicant journey. In response to the presentation, the following points were raised during a discussion amongst members: • Members raised concern on the recruitment aims for diversification of markets (no more than 60% from a single market). It was confirmed this was an institutional level benchmark, but awareness that for some disciplines, the level would be higher. Support and resources would be provided with the diversity strategy via the Faculty Recruitment Officer. • Members requested sharing central guidance on personal statements with the Faculty, as this was a common query at open days. • It was confirmed that the Admissions team would be able to provide further information on scoring of personal statements, to match the scores to student performance. • Concerns were raised around targeting UK based international students at independent schools, including issues with socio-economic diversity. Members were informed that this would not displace widening participation work. The reality was that international markets gravitate to this sector of schools.

010	**University Research Centres – Triennial Review 2023/24**
	The Chair welcomed Aidan Thompson, Research Strategy and Development Manager (representing Carole Harris for this agenda item) to the meeting.
	The Board were informed that guidelines on research centres had been updated and were available online. The Board noted that further clarity was required around the reviewing and reporting process and the role of Faculty Boards.
	It was noted that:
	• Faculty Boards were required to review Category II and III centres on a triennial basis, reporting views and recommendations to the Research Committee. • The feedback provided by Boards was valued and welcomed by the research centres.
	To facilitate the Board's decisions, close scrutiny of the research centres had been allocated to members in advance of the Board, so as to provide a summary and recommendation. The Chair invited each member to share their feedback with the Board in turn, and the Board considered and made a recommendation accordingly.
	DECISIONS:
	The Board made the following recommendations and noted feedback to Research Committee:

	a) The continuation of the following Research Centres:
	      i. Social Theory Centre
	      ii. Centre for Ethics, Law and Public Affairs (CELPA)
	 b) That the following Research Centres be invited to provide clarification to the Research Committee to assist in their review and decision:
	      iii. Centre for Critical Legal Studies (CCLS). The Board requested clarification on how the research centre would engage with critical theorists from across the wider Faculty.
	      iv. Centre in Post-Kantian European Philosophy. The Board requested further details around the achievements of the Centre. The Board requested the Centre to consider engaging with the broader political landscape, e.g. Grand Challenge.

011	**Proposal for the Establishment of a New Category II Research Centre from Physics and Computer Science (SEM) - 'Warwick Quantum'**
	The Board was invited to recommend the establishment of a new Category II Research Centre from Physics and Computer Science (SEM) - 'Warwick Quantum'. It was noted that recommendations may be subject to any comments that the Faculty Board wishes to make with regards to the establishment of the Centre.
	DECISION:
	The Board recommended the establishment of the Research Centre to the Research Committee, with warm endorsement.
012	**Interdisciplinary Research Structures Update**
	The Board welcomed Lelia Buretia, EU Research Development Officer, Research & Impact Services who provided a verbal update. Key points were as follows:
	• Following the review, there had been a recommendation to establish interdisciplinary clusters, spotlights would include – sustainability, health, business and manufacturing, digital and behaviours. Heads of Departments and research leads were consulted. • The University Research Committee would have oversight and new spotlights would feedback annually, with a robust governance process.

	- There would be an additional funding pot of £200K to enable initiatives outside of spotlights, ringfenced for interdisciplinary research. - There would be a call for leadership teams in the New Year.
013	**REF 2028 Update** The Board welcomed Sam Cole, Head of REF Futures, Policy and Delivery, Research and Impact Services to the meeting, who presented paper 013-BFSS151123 (Protected). Key points were as follows: - Initial decisions came out in late June/early July with little consultation with the sector. - The University had given a critical response to the new features. Consultation response was provided in October and Research England were now reviewing responses. - Steven Hill would be visiting Warwick in December. Members were to raise any items for discussion at the meeting. - Consultation would be circulated to HoDs at the end of November on people, culture and environment sections. Closing date was 1st December. - Research England had put out a tender for a third party to develop culture metrics in the New Year – report due in the Spring. - Plan to get full set of rules out in Jan 2025, but unlikely to remain on schedule. - Panel membership call would be advertised soon. Members were asked to put themselves forward. An opportunity to help shape how REF 2028 develops and ensure the constitution of those panels reflects the work of research intensive universities.
014	**Research Update** Aidan Thompson provided a verbal update, the key points were as follows: - There had been large bids from the Faculty and some interfaculty bids. - RIS had edit access to applications and from next month could edit live applications. - Applications were higher in number (321 in 2022-2023, 297 in 2021-22) and higher in value (£55.9M in 2022-23, £40.8M in 2021-22). - Awards were lower in number (118 in 2022-2023, 132 in 2021-22) and in value (£10.7M in 2022-23, £14.6M in 2021-22).
015	**Education Update** The Deputy Chair (Education) provided a brief verbal update, the key points were as follows: - Next information event on Artificial Intelligence and Academic Integrity was to taking place on 29 November. Members were asked to remind colleagues to sign up. - Work was progressing on the Grand Challenge and programme development.

016	**EDI Update**
	The Faculty's EDI Forum Chair noted the report below the line 020-BFSS151123 (Protected).
	It was reported that there had been some issues in context with EDI regarding pay awards. Concerns were raised, the Chair of Faculty and HR were in conversation to support the process.
	A Board member raised concern over the social inclusion training video circulated to staff. Concerns would be discussed outside of the meeting and taken back to developers.

Other

017	**Any other business**
	There was no other business.
	Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences meetings, 2023/24:
	- Wednesday 21 February 2024, 10.00am-12.00pm, CMR 1.0, University House. - Wednesday 15 May 2024, 10.00am-12.00pm, Senate House Council Chamber.

Items below this line are for receipt and/or approval, without discussion

Subsidiary and Sub-Committee Reports

018	**Faculty Education Committee Membership and Terms of Reference 2023-24**
019	**Faculty Education Committee: unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2023**
020	**Faculty of Social Sciences ED&I Report to the Social Inclusion Committee held on 8 November 2023**

Relevant Senate Committees Minutes and Reports	
Board of Graduate Studies Minutes	http://warwick.ac.uk/committees/bgs/minutes/
Partnerships Committee Minutes	https://warwick.ac.uk/committees/partnerships/minutes/
Academic Quality and Standards Committee Minutes	http://warwick.ac.uk/committees/aqsc/minutes/
University Education Committee Minutes	https://warwick.ac.uk/committees/ec/minutes/
Student Learning Experience and Engagement Committee Minutes	https://warwick.ac.uk/committees/sleec/minutes/
University Research Committee Minutes	https://warwick.ac.uk/services/gov/committees/resc/minutes

DECISIONS AND ACTIONS			
ITEM	**DECISION/ACTION**	**LEAD AND DUE DATE**	**STATUS**
2023-2024			

010
 	
University Research Centres – Triennial Review 2023/24
	DECISIONS:
	
	a) The continuation of the following Research Centres:
	    i. Social Theory Centre
	    ii. Centre for Ethics, Law and Public Affairs (CELPA)
	
	b) That the following Research Centres be invited to provide clarification to the Research Committee to assist in their review and decision:
	    iii. Centre for Critical Legal Studies (CCLS). The Board requested clarification on how the research centre would engage with critical theorists from across the wider Faculty.
	    iv. Centre in Post-Kantian European Philosophy. The Board requested further details around the achievements of the Centre. The Board requested the Centre to consider engaging with the broader political landscape, e.g. Grand Challenge.
		Carole Harris, Secretary to University Research Committee	**Completed**

011 **Proposal for the Establishment of a New Category II Research Centre from Physics and Computer Science (SEM) - 'Warwick Quantum'**	**DECISION:** The Board recommended the establishment of the Research Centre to the Research Committee, with warm endorsement.	**Carole Harris, Secretary to University Research Committee**	**Completed**